

# 2013 Needs Assessment for Houston County

Butch Binford  
Houston County Courthouse  
P.O. Drawer 6406  
Dothan, AL 36302  
(334) 677-4848

Judge Lori Collier Ingram  
Lynn Ivey, Executive Director  
Mary Paulk, Dept. of Human Resources  
Linda O'Connell, Alfred Saliba Family Services Center  
Stanley Davis, Southeast Alabama Youth Services  
Brian Simerly, Alabama State Troopers  
Susan Loftin, Dothan City Schools  
Ron Thomas, Houston County Schools  
Angela Underwood, Juvenile Court System  
Vickie Carter, Houston Co. Health Department  
Kimberly Faulkner, Houston Co. Health Department  
Douglas Valeska, Houston County District Attorney  
Steve Clouse, State Representative  
Harri Anne Smith, State Senator  
Jimmy Holley State Senator  
Betty Peters, Alabama Department. of Education  
Sherryl Walker, Southeast AL Child Advocacy Center  
Scott Applefield, Southeast AL Child Advocacy Center  
Kristina Bennett, Dothan Area Career Center  
Pamela Miles, Exchange Center for Child Abuse Prevention  
Twyla Williams, Yes, We Can Dothan  
David Duke, Wiregrass 2-1-1  
Susan Trawick, Dothan-Houston County Substance Abuse Partnership  
Lori Gilley, Family Guidance Center  
Rosalind James, Alabama Cooperative Extension System  
Christina Johnson, Dothan City Schools  
Powell Brewton, Southeast Alabama Youth Services  
Vanessa Dickens, Wallace Community College  
Altha Newman, Hawk-Houston Boys & Girls Club  
Cynthia Hicks, Troy University-Dothan  
Pam Wimbish, Troy University-Dothan  
Ovetta Coleman, Spectracare - Prevention  
Jake Colson, Boys & Girls Club of Wiregrass

Vera Smith, Mayor of Gordon  
Owen Duke, Department of Youth Services  
Jerryneta Evans, Dothan City Schools Head Start Center  
Collins Trott, Alfred Saliba Family Services Center/HIPPY  
Steve Turkoski, Dothan Chamber of Commerce  
Beth Ford, Dothan-Houston Co. Sub. Abuse Partnership  
Ellen Williams, Healthy You/Just the Facts  
Jason Williams, Healthy You/Just the Facts  
Elizabeth Tiller, Parent Project, ASFSC  
Kathy Flack, Vaughn-Blumberg Center  
Phillip Gilley, Boys & Girls Club of Wiregrass  
Barbara Alford, Wiregrass Foundation  
Tami Culver, Dothan Education Foundation  
Mary Hill, Alfred Saliba Family Services Center  
Vicki Hunter, Mayor of Webb  
Michael Jackson, DuBois Institute  
Lawrence Keener, Alfred Saliba Family Services Center  
Susie Kingry, Spectracare  
Heath Carpenter, ABC Board  
Erin GreyBull-Harrison, Exchange Center for Child Abuse Prevention  
Mary Jane Oakley, Legal Services of Alabama  
Julie Turner, Dothan City Schools  
Belinda Mitchell, Alfred Saliba Family Services Center  
Ebony Crews, Spectracare - Prevention  
Jaime Lewis, Girls, Inc.  
Daniel Churchfield, Southeast Alabama Youth Services  
Jeremiah Dalton, Wiregrass Hope Group  
Molly Martin, Troy University  
Odell Chambers, ASFSC  
Ben Slingluff, Slingluff, Inc., Dothan Area Early Childhood Education Committee

Samuel Crawford, Juvenile Justice Committee,  
Retired Senior Volunteer Program

Dell Godwin, Dothan City Schools Johnny Trawick,  
Police Athletic League  
Jemmie Watford, Police Athletic League  
Michael Coker, Police Athletic League  
Jarrod Blumberg, District Attorney's office  
Jim Hartnett, CDY/ Alfred Saliba Family Services  
Center

## **Accomplishments**

### **EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION**

- Dothan City Schools Head Start awarded a new First Class Pre-K grant for 2013-2014
- HIPPY program expanded to have a group at Wallace Community College and an additional parenting component called HIPPY Plus
- Houston County Resource Directory distributed electronically to all CPC member agencies through the assistance of Wiregrass United Way 2-1-1
- Funding of Pre-K Readiness brochure secured through Yes, We Can! Dothan resulting in printing of 29,000 English and 1,000 Spanish brochures; brochure launched and distribution started during a press conference as part of the December CPC meeting
- HIPPY program began serving 45 children on October 1, and in January increased to 90 total
- Early Head Start Home-Based component completed a successful year
- Additional assignments and laboratory activities added to Wallace Community College Child Development classes to improve real life preparation of future child care providers
- Funding secured through Alfred Saliba Family Services Center, Alabama Partnership for Children, and Wiregrass Foundation for planning a Kindergarten Readiness Networking Event scheduled for July, 2013
- CPC Executive Director Lynn Ivey and HIPPY Coordinator Collins Trott featured on Live at Lunch, WTVY-TV, June 24, to discuss upcoming Kindergarten Readiness Networking Event
- Dothan Montessori School to open in fall 2013
- Family Guidance Center provided training workshops to child care providers and partnered with Wallace Community College to have Sensational Saturdays training workshops

### **EDUCATION**

- Dothan City Schools graduation rate increased from 64% to 85%; drop-out rate less than 1%
- Houston County Schools graduation rate was 87%
- Dothan Education Foundation formed through the merger of the Education Foundation, Yes, We Can! Dothan, and Adopt-a-School Dothan, to form a new education foundation effective October 1, 2012
- Career Design for Youth with the Family Services Center assisted younger students who were struggling in school and older students who had previously dropped-out and were working toward obtaining their GED
- Up Teens Program began, offered by Healthy You and Just the Facts
- The 'Class of 2025' - this year's kindergarten class, recognized by the distribution of various materials as part of the Graduation for All Program
- Alabama Cooperative Extension Service Youth Entrepreneurial Program began this year in the middle schools with 58 students attending the Youth Entrepreneurship Camp at the Alabama 4H Youth Development Center; classes will begin in June co-sponsored by the Houston County Children's Policy Council and Mike Schmitz Automotive Group
- Yes, We Can! Dothan Youth Leadership Conference for Dothan and Northview High School club officers held September 27, at Troy University Dothan

- Southeast Alabama Youth Services Diversion Center hosted several motivational speakers for clients
- Yes, We Can! Dothan sponsored billboards around the Wiregrass area promoting school attendance
- Truancy Diversion program continued to serve students from both Houston County and Dothan City Schools and held an informational meeting for representatives from Dothan City and Houston County Schools with 33 representatives in attendance
- Yes, We Can! Dothan held a workshop for the Dothan City Schools' Good News representatives for each school
- Annual Adopt-A-School Dothan kick-Off breakfast held to strengthen relationships between Dothan City Schools and their school adopters
- Stuff the Bus school supply campaign held during the month of August at Wiregrass Commons Mall and Regions Bank locations
- Building Fit Kids drive for Dothan City Schools' P.E. programs held at the Dothan Pavilion during August
- 3,864 students served by the 'Healthy You' Project this past school year
- Wiregrass Girls Rock! Summer Retreat sessions offered for teen-aged girls and their families as an overnight event
- Fourth Annual Education Summit and showcase held on January 14
- Judge Binford and Ovetta Coleman were featured on Live at Lunch on WTVY on Dec. 10 to discuss the Truancy Diversion Program and Early Warning Court
- All DCS middle School students attended the Blues Festival December 7 at Dothan Civic Center (approx. 2000 students)
- Anti-bullying activities sponsored by Healthy You/Just the Facts in local schools
- N.I.C.E. Committee sponsored a Community Chat with Charles Corbitt at McRae Homes and a bus tour to Girard Middle School with principals and staff to GMS neighborhoods and housing projects
- Dothan Technology Center held a Career Awareness Day on Oct. 5 - all DCS fifth graders participated in the visit to DTC
- College Fair held on Oct. 25 hosting students from both Houston and Henry counties and 40 colleges
- Dothan Police Athletic League boxing program served Dothan students - many at-risk and finding a positive outlet with the program (several national champions in the program)
- "Career Countdown" (previously known as Welcome to the Real World) sponsored by Alabama Cooperative Extension Service in November at Dothan High School and in April at Northview High School: total 570 ninth grade students participated
- "Wiregrass Girls Rock" hosted national HIV/AIDS Prevention forum at Dothan High School on March 26; 400 mothers and daughters attended
- PARCA Report (fourth year) was presented to the community on Nov. 15 detailing achievements and challenges within DCS ( many areas showed significant growth and improvement)
- Dothan Education Foundation hosted Leigh Anne Tuoy at the Dothan Civic Center, featuring choral groups from Dothan City Schools 3/7/13
- Dothan City Schools held School Board open community meetings at all four middle schools to present their new middle school proposal
- Healthy You, Inc. held relationship workshops in Dothan City Schools and Houston County Schools and character education "Core Essentials" program for Girard Elementary fifth graders
- Press Conference held at December CPC meeting to launch Kindergarten Readiness brochure, followed by distribution of brochures in English and Spanish throughout Houston County

- Dothan Technology Center held Senior Citizen Day 12/14/12
- Girard Middle Schools "Taking it to the Streets" event held 1/12/13, including a bus tour with the Principal
- Fourth Annual Education Summit & Showcase, sponsored by Yes We Can! Dothan held 1/17/13
- Dothan City Schools and Alfred Saliba Family Services Center highlighted during presentations at PARCA Annual Meeting in Birmingham and in 2012 PARCA report
- Wiregrass Black History Honors Program recognized over 60 students with congressional certificates 2/23/13
- Youth Career Expo for 800 DCS 8th graders held in March
- Career Summit held at Dothan Civic Center with 70 business/industries participating
- Boys & Girls Clubs continue to promote Graduation for All through tutorial services and providing ACT waivers
- Girls, Inc. provided full or partial scholarships to 15 families for their children to attend Girls, Inc.'s afterschool program
- Early Warning Court held every other week at Houston County Courthouse with sessions for both secondary and elementary students
- Healthy You, Inc. held "Asthma Safari" puppet show May 11 to educate pre-elementary and elementary students and their parents; SADD students served as puppeteers; Dr Kalenian provided expertise and Q&A with parents
- Winshape Camp was held at Girard Middle School for elementary/middle school age students (sponsored by Chick-Fil-A and Calvary Baptist Church)
- Two teachers from Dothan City Schools recognized as finalists for Alabama Teacher of the Year; both inductees in Teachers' Hall of Fame at Jacksonville State University
- Yes We Can! Dothan sponsored a technical assistance workshop for DCS TOYS to aid in the TOY application process
- Slingluff Elementary School receiving Alabama Torchbearer status for second year in a row and receiving Bronze Award from National Center for Urban School Transformation
- Character education training provided to all Girard Elementary School 5th grade students using Core Essentials values curriculum

## HEALTH

- Houston County Health Department held ongoing Immunization clinics and flu clinics, continued to promote graduation during assessments, and attended "National Night Out"
- Dothan-Houston County Substance Abuse Partnership taught Power of Parents MADD in PTO meetings; taught Life Skills at DCS Carver Magnet School
- Operation Save Teens provided to six city & county schools
- Community Job Fair held October 9 in Dothan Civic Center
- Alabama Cooperative Extension System taught classes on diet & nutrition and "Champions" to area day care providers.
- Diabetes Cooking Classes held March 14th; Diabetes Conference held at Dothan Civic Center; Diabetes Support group meets at the Houston County Health Department monthly with Diabetes Coordinator
- Dothan Family Health Clinic opened July 1, 2012
- Samaritan Clinic began providing eye and dental care
- OCC MED - Occupation Medicine office opened
- 2-1-1 continued to provide referrals for healthcare, mental health, and substance abuse
- Juvenile Diabetes Fundraiser held in February raised awareness and funding
- Houston County Health Department efforts include: for ages 18 and under - immunizations \$4.00 or less if no insurance or file ins. or Medicaid; HPV Initiative ages 18-26 (Gardasil Vaccine) for

those with Plan 1st or no insurance

#### SAFETY

- Stabilizing JCC referrals rather than risk losing contact
- Fewer truancy referrals than during previous year
- New "Why Try?" program implemented by Alfred Saliba Family Services Center
- Continue utilizing local resources including Early Warning, Truancy Diversion, Parent Project/Positive Action, SAXLA Behavior Aides, SPAN program, Youth Villages, Sanction options including SAYLA weekend program, and Pathways, Child Abuse Prevention, and electronic monitoring systems.
- BET HIV Awareness Program - "Rap it Up" held
- Behavioral aides utilized at PASS Academy, Honeysuckle, and Girard Schools
- Healthy You programs utilized
- PTO on Wheels/Taking it to the Streets program implemented

#### ECONOMIC SECURITY

- Dothan Area Career Center:
  1. continued to encourage graduation by offering WIA funding through ITA & CC for approved training & approved providers for graduates
  2. partnered with ASFSC F.S.S to identify WIA eligible youth (in school) who need case management & incentives to graduate/stay in school
  3. assisted parents (clients) with resume prep, ,job search, etc. to decrease stress associated with unemployment or underemployment
  4. continued to fund eligible youth to attend WCC Child Development AAS program to increase quality of child care workers
- ADECA, Career Center, and community colleges are partnering to provide WIA funding for in school WIA eligible youth for dual enrollment funding/programs including using PSA's
- Community Job Fair held Oct. 9
- Mayor's Economic Development Program held Sept. 19
- ADECA Project - Career Designs for Youth provided at Alfred Saliba Family Services Center with 45 students enrolled
- Youth Entrepreneurship program implemented at Dothan High School FBLA
- Youth Career Summit completed
- Career Development for Youth - 31 students completed
- Career Count Down completed at Dothan High School and Northview High School
- Legal Services provided free community education workshops at ASFSC on landlord/tenant rights, SNAP program, health insurance for children, preparing income tax (Impact Alabama), and predatory lenders
- Caregiver training provided by Alabama Cooperative Extension System

#### PARENT

- Wiregrass Hope Group provided Boot Camp for new dads, childbirth education classes, nutrition classes for new moms & dads, parenting program for dads, and parenting program for new & veteran moms
- Exchange Center provided support group for parents of teens, basic parenting, 1-2-3 Magic discipline training, co-parenting training, and Moms Everyday/WTVY TV video vignettes
- Exchange Center served 10 families with Parent Aide services and effectively reduced risk factors for abuse; served 550 survivors of child abuse or domestic violence with individual or group therapy; served over 2000 community members with prevention education services
- Fatherhood parenting short course held in January at Hope Group
- Alfred Saliba Family Services Center offered Positive Action for Teens and Parent Project for

parents - a bilateral program with the "Why Try?" program as part of the Positive Action program; offered Strong Families program

- ASFSC reported 80% deterrent in infractions for children who completed Positive Action for 2012, and 80% completion rate for parents who enroll in Parent Project
- Southeast Alabama Child Advocacy Center conducted a 6 hour training for parents at Dothan City Schools Head Start called 1-2-3-4 Parents; school-based child abuse prevention programs were conducted in Houston County and Dothan City Schools; individual counseling sessions were provided for at-risk parents
- CPC served as liaison between agencies along with 2-1-1 providing information about programs, events and resources; open communication maintained between agencies
- Effective communication among agencies was enhanced by participation in quarterly CPC meetings and monthly Association of Service Agencies meetings
- Kindergarten Readiness brochures distributed to Houston County parents through CPC member agencies
- CPC agencies participated in Dothan Night Out, sponsored by Dothan Police Department

#### CPC INFRASTRUCTURE

- CPC Grants committee completed third and fourth rounds of RFP and grant awards process for Regional Alliance for Children (RAC) Funds (\$52,930)
- RAC Grants awarded:
  1. Hawk-Houston Boys & Girls Club: \$9,830.00
  2. Dothan Police Athletic League: \$9,830.00
  3. Alfred Saliba Family Services Center: \$8,300.00
  4. Healthy You, Inc/Just the Facts: \$7,040.00
  5. Dothan - Houston County Substance Abuse Partnership: \$4,482.50
  6. Southeast Alabama Child Advocacy Center: \$4,482.50
  7. The Exchange Center for Child Abuse Prevention: \$4,482.50
  8. Alabama Cooperative Extension System: \$4,482.50
- CPC Letters of Support submitted for the following grant proposals:
  1. Healthy You, Inc., for Straight Talk About Healthy Choices grant
  2. Dothan City Schools Head Start for Pre-K First Class Plus grant
  3. Brenda's Preparatory School for Pre-K First Class Plus grant
  4. Alfred Saliba Family Services Center for Juvenile Reentry Grant, U.S. Department of Justice
- CPC Memorandum of Understanding completed for proposed SpectraCare grant proposal addressing underage drinking
- Twelve Houston County CPC members attended Regional CPC Meeting
- CPC members participated in Child Abuse Prevention Month proclamation event
- Secured funding of \$20,000, from Houston County District Attorney Doug Valeska for second year of salary for CPC Executive Director position
- Executive Director:
  1. completed second year of leadership
  2. served as guest speaker for social work classes at Troy University about the Children's Policy Council, its goals and accomplishments
  3. served as judge for Alabama Boys & Girls Club Youth of the Year competition
- Guest speakers/programs for CPC quarterly meetings 2012-2013:
  1. David Duke, Wiregrass United Way 2-1-1
  2. Press Conference - Kindergarten Readiness Brochure Project Launch
  3. Rosalind James, Youth Career Summit, Alabama Cooperative Extension System
  4. Mid-year Grant Reports from Agencies receiving RAC grant funding

# 2013 Needs Assessment for Houston County

## First Priority

### Need related to children of this county

Increase graduation rates/decrease dropout rates

Existing resources available to help meet this need include:	Resources needed but unavailable to meet this need include:
<p>Truancy Diversion Program</p> <p>Parent Project/Positive Action counseling programs</p> <p>Accelerated Credit Recovery Programs</p> <p>Anti-bullying/anti-hazing program through Dothan/Houston County Substance Abuse Partnership</p> <p>Wiregrass Foundation supported activities</p> <p>Saturday Schools (remediation and discipline)</p> <p>District Attorney's office resources</p> <p>Communication materials including billboards, electronic signs, television and radio PSA's focused on the negative consequences of dropping out of high school</p> <p>CPC member agencies assisting with focus on "Graduation for All"</p> <p>Just the Facts provides Healthy Choices training</p> <p>Dothan City Schools offers Summer Bridge</p> <p>Transition programs for 6th and 9th grades</p> <p>Core Essentials Program as funded by Chick-Fil-A</p> <p>Seedlings Program by Just the Facts/Healthy You</p> <p>Dothan Career Center</p> <p>Dothan Montessori School</p> <p>Kindergarten Readiness brochure</p> <p>Early Warning program</p> <p>Electronic monitoring</p> <p>Weekend at SAYLA</p> <p>Boys &amp; Girls Clubs</p> <p>Big Brothers</p> <p>Pathways</p> <p>SAYLA Behavior programs</p> <p>Substance Abuse programs</p> <p>SPAN</p>	<p>A solid, stable formula provided by the State for the consistent determination of the graduation rate</p> <p>Equitable funding for schools to compete on a fair playing field</p> <p>Funding to continue "Wiregrass Girls Rock Conference"</p> <p>Resources to allow for all schools to employ full-time parent involvement specialists</p> <p>Funding for Pre-K programs</p> <p>Utilize Behavior Aides in identifying bullies and bullying behavior</p>

### Action steps that will result in progress toward meeting the identified need:

1. Continue to develop "Graduation for All" programs and continue to apply anti-dropout efforts to city and county schools
2. Continue Truancy Diversion program and add Truancy Diversion Town Hall Meeting for all involved

stakeholders

3. District Attorney involvement to include press conferences/releases/letters/prosecution
4. Hold Youth Career Summits and other various events and include graduates who come back and talk to students about the importance of graduating
5. Hold Kindergarten Readiness Networking Event to improve communication between Kindergarten teachers and preschool providers
6. Hold Youth Entrepreneur Program/Jump Start for Business (ages 12-19)
7. Hold 4-H Healthy Choice program - train teens to teach elementary students/middle school students how to maintain a healthy lifestyle
8. Recruit for UpTeen Mentoring and Leadership program pilot
9. Continue Career Designs for Youth at Alfred Saliba Family Services Center
10. Continue ITA at Dothan Career Center
11. Continue Dothan Career Center partnership with Alfred Saliba Family Services Center
12. Continue dual-enrollment program



# 2013 Needs Assessment for Houston County

## Second Priority

### Need related to children of this county

Improve parenting skills

Existing resources available to help meet this need include:	Resources needed but unavailable to meet this need include:
Southeast Alabama Child Advocacy Center Alfred Saliba Family Services Center (Parent Project/Positive Action Classes) Exchange Center for Prevention of Child Abuse Alabama Pre and Post Adoption Connection "Yes, We Can! Dothan" Houston County Health Department Houston County Department of Human Resources School counselors Other CPC member agencies Juvenile Court System Truancy Diversion program Health You, Inc. Houston County Resource Directory (provided through Wiregrass United Way 2-1-1) Alabama Cooperative Extension System joined with DHR JOBS Program to provide job readiness training SpectraCare Wiregrass Hope Center Pre-K Kindergarten Readiness Brochure	Improve communication between organizations/ liaison Mediator for custody/visitation as co-parenting focusing on welfare of the child Assistance for parents of elementary students

### Action steps that will result in progress toward meeting the identified need:

1. Refer parents to Wiregrass 2-1-1 for resource list
2. Encourage organizations/agencies to participate in Association of Service Agencies and Children's Policy Council meetings
3. Strengthen relationship between Children's Policy Council/service agencies and religious organizations
4. Research funding availability for mediators; encourage judges to refer to existing co-parenting classes
5. Use volunteers (perhaps RSVP) to work with at-risk parents (mentor list)
6. Continue participation in Dothan's Night Out
7. Acquire funds for assistance for parents of elementary students
8. Implementing Diversion Impact through Region 4
9. Improve communication between organizations using CPC Executive Director as liaison along with other efforts
10. Continue creating PSA's on marriage and relationships

# 2013 Needs Assessment for Houston County

## Third Priority

### Need related to children of this county

Improve quality of child care programs

Existing resources available to help meet this need include:	Resources needed but unavailable to meet this need include:
Kindergarten Readiness Brochures in English and Spanish HIPPY - Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters Alabama's Pre-K program Dothan City Schools Head Start Early Head Start (Alfred Saliba Family Services Center) Family Guidance Center (FGC) - subsidized child care Family Guidance Center Resource Center Sensational Saturdays - Family Guidance Center and Wallace Community College Department of Human Resources "Yes We Can! Dothan" PSA's - "Have you read to your child today?" Summer Bridge Program for Pre-K Four year olds - Dothan City Schools Early Childhood Initiative - "Yes, We Can! Dothan" and business involvement Houston County Resource Directory (provided through Wiregrass United Way 2-1-1) Wallace Community College Childcare Worker Certification programs Kiddie Care Learning Center offers expanded non-traditional hours Troy University Summer Spectacular Parent awareness of Pre-K skills	More centers/opportunities for child care services (early childhood education) during non-traditional hours

### Action steps that will result in progress toward meeting the identified need:

1. Coordinate a Kindergarten Readiness Networking Event to facilitate improved communication between child care providers and kindergarten teachers about skills necessary for school success
2. Develop opportunities for follow-up communication after Kindergarten Readiness Networking Event
3. Expand HIPPY groups to Troy University-Dothan
4. Explore articulation agreement with Wallace Community College CHD and Troy University ECE programs

5. Continue communicate available resources and early childhood education skills needed for success in school through PSA's, training, checklists, display booths at community events, etc.
6. Deliver programs in home and in at-risk communities: (HIPPO program provides home-based services and is seeking funding for "Fostering Early Education" expansion grant; Early Head Start provides home-based program component)